

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 07160 221702Z

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ACTION SCI-06

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TGEN, FR, ENRG

SUBJECT: SWEDEN QUILTS EUODIF: INITIAL FRENCH PRESS
REACTION AND SWEDISH SCIATT COMMENTS

1. REPORTING ON THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF MARCH 20 THAT SWEDEN WILL NOT PARTICIPATE IN EUODIF (SWEDEN WAS TO FINANCE 10 PERCENT), FRENCH PAPERS CITE SWEDEN'S SUPPLY AGREEMENTS FOR FUTURE ENRICHED URANIUM ALREADY CONCLUDED WITH THE US AND UNDER NEGOTIATION WITH THE USSR. LE FIGARO, WHICH IS OFTEN IN SUPPORT OF GOF POLICY, CALLED THE SWEDISH DECISION "NOT UNEXPECTED", AND OBSERVED THAT NUMEROUS SWEDES FEEL THAT THE 1980'S SUPPLY OF ENRICHED URANIUM WILL BE IN SURPLUS OF WORLD NEEDS, WHEREAS EUODIF OFFICIALS PERSIST IN DESIRE TO ACCELERATE AND INCREASE THEIR PROGRAM. LE MONDE SPECULATED THAT A CONTRIBUTING REASON FOR THE SWEDISH DECISION MAY BE A DESIRE TO REMAIN "NEUTRAL" BETWEEN EUODIF AND EUROPE'S CENTRIFUGE GROUPING, URENCO. SEVERAL PAPERS OBSERVED

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PAGE 02 PARIS 07160 221702Z

THAT EUODIF AND URENCO HAVE HAD PRELIMINARY CONTACTS ON

COOPERATION. FURTHER, SEVERAL PAPERS REFLECTED THAT SWEDEN MAY WELL BECOME AN EVENTUAL CLIENT OF EURODIF, DESPITE HAVING SPURNED PARTICIPATION.

2. WITH RESPECT TO EURODIF'S FUTURE AFTER SWEDISH WITHDRAWAL, ALL PAPERS EXPECT RELATIVELY SMOOTH CONTINUITY IN ITS ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAM. LES ECHOS CONCLUDED THAT THE SWEDISH DECISION, WHICH COULD HAVE BEEN CATASTROPHIC FOR EURODIF SIX MONTHS AGO, PRESENTS NO GREAT OBSTACLES TODAY, SINCE THE ORDER BOOK FOR EURODIF'S ENRICHED URANIUM IS ALREADY BRIMMING AND SINCE OTHER POTENTIAL PARTNERS, EITHER GOVERNMENTAL OR INDUSTRIAL, ARE IN VIEW. NOTING THAT FRANCE ALREADY HAS 47.5 PERCENT OF EURODIF, LE MONDE POINTED OUT THAT A PRO RATA REDIVISION OF SWEDEN'S SHARES (AS PROVIDED IN THE EURODIF TREATY), AMONG THE REMAINING FOUR PARTNERS (FRANCE, ITALY, BELGIUM, AND SPAIN), WOULD TURN EURODIF INTO A "FRENCH", NO LONGER A EUROPEAN ORGANIZATION.

3. SWEDISH SCIENCE ATTACHE TO PARIS HAS CONFIRMED TO SCICON THAT SWEDISH DECISION DUE TO SWEDISH INTERNAL POLITICAL SITUATION, AS WELL AS DELAY OF ABOUT A YEAR UNTIL THE MEETING TO ESTABLISH SWEDISH NUCLEAR PLANT POLICY. HE ADDED THAT HYDROELECTRIC POWER IN SWEDEN IS INSUFFICIENT TO POWER A DIFFUSION PLANT THERE, AND CONSEQUENTLY THAT ANY DIFFUSION-PROCESS PLANT IN SWEDEN WILL HAVE TO BE POWERED BY NUCLEAR-ELECTRIC PLANTS. STONE

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